

# Living Lab Network Youth Eco-Stewardship Program 2024 Report

Living Lab is a community-school-campus partnership supporting land-based learning/healing, eco-cultural restoration and Indigenous resurgence.

## Highlights of 2024 CAMP

















Congrats to Summer
EcoYouth Interns Ava
George, Katessa Rice, Ethan
Farrell, Rylan Thomas and
Harmony Lecoy.
Great Job!



Living Lab hosted its first-ever March Break engaging camps, Lekwungen youth in exploring Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ regional lands. Over two weeks, activities included ecosystem restoration at SNID@EŁ, harvesting 50 pounds of clams at Bamberton, fishing at the Breakwater, visiting the Royal BC Museum and IMAX, and preparing a community feast.

The summer camps involved 23 youth in fishing, creative arts, island exploration, traditional food preparation, and activities focused on climate action, archaeology, and local history. The program concluded with an end-of-summer feast attended by 80 family members.





### Looking Ahead



L: Youth Sharing Circle at Esquimalt Nation (Coles Bay) R: Clam Digging, Bamberton

The Eco-Youth Program has run for seven years, with hundreds of youth participating. The Living Lab Network remains committed to providing spaces, opportunities, and adventures for future generations to reconnect with their homelands and build personal, community, and ecosystem well-being. In early 2025, we will engage with the youth, parents, communities, and partners to plan the next steps and to connect the program to education and employment goals.

Youth likes 77 Youth together

'I liked going canoeing and travelling's to new areas."

Always outside (Beach, park, hikes)

Salt spring day trip Crabbing Making food for the Weaving nation -> feasts Skywalk

Salish Sea- ŢEŢÁĆES Elders speaking **Boat Trips** Art

> Keep an eye out for the Insect guide!





Jessica Joseph Songhees Nation LLab Arts & Community Engagement Coordinator

"For us, the foundation for caring about climate change and wanting to protect our living heritage IS reconnecting to our homelands. We are recovering the practices of our ancestors who stewarded the lands and waters since time immemorial. We want to serve our communities while gaining meaningful, related employment skills tied to environmental protection and community- ecosystem wellness."

Thanks to the Songhees and Esquimalt Education Department' staff Kalie Dyer, Maya Hamel and Erin Glasgow for their support. Plans are underway for linking the youth program to school and employment goals, having seasonal outings and more food, fun, arts, cooking and camping!

'HISKWE, (Lekwungen sp) Elders Bangus George, Mary Ann Thomas, Earl Claxton Jr and Butch Dick for your inspiring guidance ' Our Eco-Stewardship Youth Camps program started in the summer of 2017 between the Songhees and the University of Victoria. Since it's inception, it has grown to include the Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) and Pauquchin Nations, PEPÁKEN HÁUTW Foundation, the WSÁNEĆ School Board, School District #61 Indigenous Education,

Parks Canada, Science Venture, Camosun College and many other communities and NGO partners. We have many stories, memories and adventures

to come!





#### **Educational Transformation**

Develop land-based learning and school programs connecting sustainability and environmental/science education with student well-being and success.

#### **Restoration and Resurgence**

Organize community-driven ecosystem and climate action projects which affirm Indigenous knowledge, rights, and access to/use of traditional lands and waters.

#### **Community - Driven Research**

Lead and support community-driven research projects based on Indigenous and community knowledge and priorities, healing and wellness, and restoring the connection to lands and waters.

#### **Capacity Building and Engagement**

Create community skills, capacity-building activities, and a regional Indigenous eco-stewardship program focused on children and youth.

#### **OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS**



based learning/healing, eco-cultural restoration and Indigenous resurgence.